



SAN LUIS RESERVOIR & PACHECO PARK GENERAL PLANS



PARTNERS IN PARK PLANNING

In a collaborative partnership, the California Department of Parks and Recreation and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation are launching a joint planning process to improve recreation facilities at the San Luis Reservoir. Working together with the community, this planning process will create a vision for the future, provide recommendations for improvements, and set guidelines for managing the park so it can be enjoyed for years to come. We invite you to join us in planning the park's future!

We welcome your ideas and suggestions for improving this recreation area and preserving its special characteristics. You can start by filing out the enclosed survey and attending the Public Planning Workshop on January 11. Public input will help us focus on priorities, desires and concerns as we evaluate the park's recreational uses and visitor facilities.

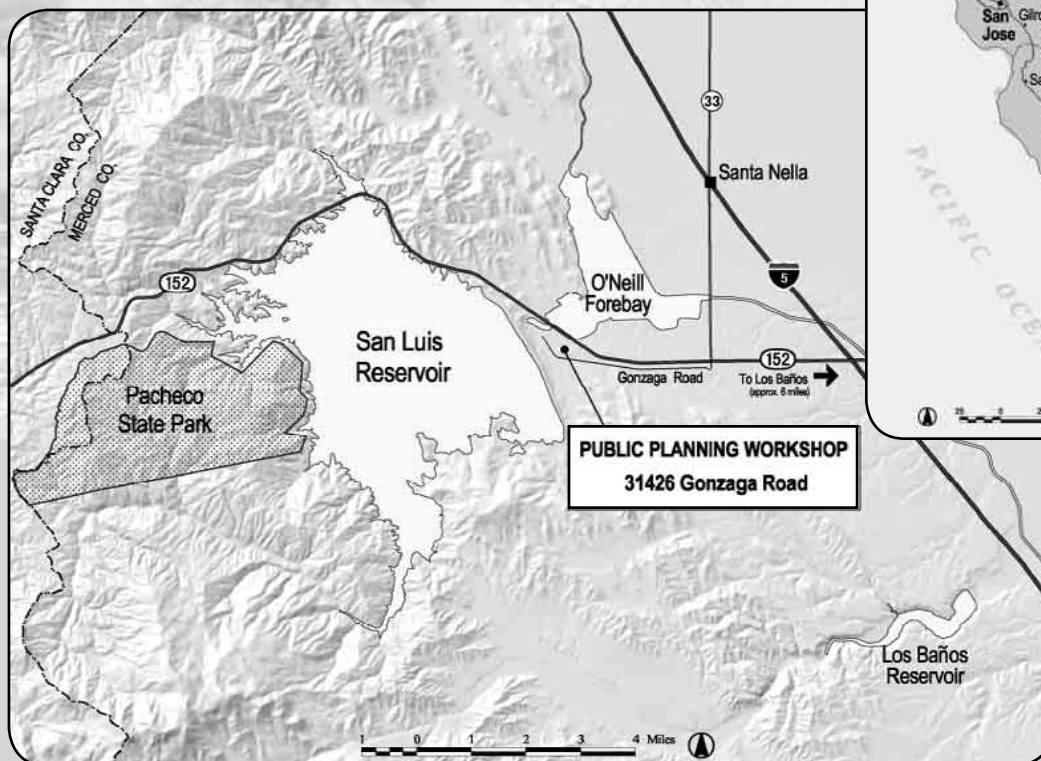
Stewardship of the park's environmental resources will also be an important consideration in the planning process. We look forward to hearing your ideas about ways that we can ensure the long-term protection of the area's wildlife, plants, and cultural resources. Given its proximity to the reservoir, we also will be discussing Pacheco State Park during this planning process. We hope you will take some time to share your ideas and help plan the future of these magnificent state parks.

HOW CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE?

Stay Informed: This Planning Update will keep you informed on the progress of the General Plan process. It will cover both the San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area and Pacheco State Park General Plans, because the parks are adjacent to each other and parts of the planning process will be combined. Over the next year and a half, we'll be working together to discuss and evaluate a variety of planning topics including recreation facilities, habitat protection, and education and interpretive programs, just to name a few. This Planning Update will track our progress and notify you of upcoming public workshops.

Fill Out the Survey: The enclosed survey will help us understand your key issues, ideas and concerns. Tell us what you like about the parks, what's missing, or what could work better!

Attend the Public Planning Workshops: We will host three public workshops for the San Luis Reservoir and Pacheco Park General Plans. The first workshop will be held on January 11 at the San Luis Reservoir. The workshop will provide a forum to discuss suggestions for park enhancements and to identify topics for the planning process to explore. Please join us!



Public Planning Workshop

**Saturday, January 11, 2003
10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Four Rivers District Office
31426 Gonzaga Road
Gustine, CA 95322
209.826.1197**

San Luis Reservoir

San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area

This recreation area contains three main water bodies: the San Luis Reservoir, Los Baños Creek Detention Dam, and O'Neill Forebay. These facilities are managed through a joint agreement between the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources and supply approximately 1.25 million acre-feet of irrigation water to about 600,000 acres of land. In a 1969 agreement, certain lands surrounding the San Luis Reservoir and Los Baños Detention Dam were designated for recreational use and are currently managed by the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

The San Luis Reservoir is well-known for its windsurfing, fishing, camping and boating opportunities, in addition to other recreational activities. Equally important in the planning process is the area's historic significance, including its early use by Native Americans and later as important lands in California's ranching history.



Los Baños Riparian Corridor

Known resources at the San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area include:

- Water storage, supply and distribution facilities and infrastructure,
- High-use recreational areas (e.g., San Luis Creek, Basalt, Medeiros, Dinosaur Point and Los Baños Creek),
- Plant communities such as Grassland, Coastal Sage Scrub and Riparian,
- Wildlife species such as San Joaquin kit fox, and
- Culturally and historically significant areas.

Some topics the General Plan process will consider include:

- Expansion of recreational facilities (e.g., camping facilities, restroom facilities, swimming area, windsurfing, safety patrol platform, marina improvements),
- Land management actions for plants and wildlife,
- Interpretation of archaeological/historical/cultural resources,
- Evaluation for access safety improvements,
- Regional growth and planning issues,

- Relationship to adjacent Pacheco State Park, possibly providing a linking trail system, and
- Remote access to Los Baños.

The Los Baños Detention Dam lies approximately 10 miles to the southeast of San Luis Reservoir. The area contains camping and day use areas and also provides boating and fishing opportunities. Both the San Luis and Los Baños areas host many plant and animal species and associated habitats, including some that warrant special management considerations, such as the San Joaquin kit fox, a federal and state endangered species.



Biologists working on the San Luis Reservoir wildlife inventory photographed this coyote at night, using a stationary camera set with infrared transmitters.

PARKS TEAMS WITH BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

The San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area is unique because although the recreation lands are managed by the California Department of Parks and Recreation, the land is owned by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. They have owned the land since building the dam in 1965. The Bureau of Reclamation uses Resource Management Plans in the same way that California State Parks uses General Plans. The two agencies are working together to produce a joint plan to consolidate certain facets of the planning process. Your voice and/or written comments will be heard by both state and federal agency staff – so your participation in this process is doubly important!

A joint Environmental Impact Report / Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) also will be produced as part of this planning process, providing an opportunity to plan for the future of the San Luis Reservoir recreation lands, while respecting their role as habitat and water distribution facilities.

Pacheco Park

Pacheco State Park



Scenic Rolling Hills of Pacheco State Park

The approximately 6,800 acres of Pacheco State Park were donated to the State of California by the late Paula Fatjo, a descendant of Francisco Pacheco. Currently, 2,600 acres are open to the public, principally for hiking and horseback riding. These lands were part of the larger 48,000-acre Mexican land grant deeded to Pacheco in 1843. The original adobe structure built by the Pacheco family was moved during the construction of the San Luis Reservoir and sits amidst the other ranch buildings, paddocks and outbuildings that exist today. The park is adjacent to the San Luis Reservoir on the east and is accessible off Dinosaur Point Road from State Route 152 in western Merced County.

PACHECO RESOURCES

Pacheco Park is located in the Diablo range at the edge of the Central San Joaquin Valley rising from 650 feet to its highest peak at 1,900 feet above sea level. Pacheco's scenic rolling hills are a result of coastal and valley influences resulting in a mosaic of oak and blue oak woodland, open grassland and wildflowers. The hills are laced with a myriad of old ranch roads. Deer, bobcat, mountain lion, coyote, fox and eagles are among its diverse wildlife. Approximately 25 small reservoirs, originally created as livestock watering ponds, now capture and store water runoff.

Pacheco State Park resources include:

- Hiking and equestrian trails,
- Historical/cultural resources, including old ranch buildings and corrals,
- Plant communities such as oak and blue oak woodland,
- Wildlife species, such as the California red-legged frog,
- Open space, and
- Scenic vistas.

Some topics that will be considered in the General Plan process include:

- Access safety on State Route 152,
- Opportunities for overnight camping, horseback riding, and other recreational activities,
- Opportunities for interpretive and educational programs,
- Relationship to the adjacent San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area,
- Historical/cultural resources including old ranch buildings and corrals,
- Facilities analysis, including use of existing buildings, and
- Evaluation and inventory of historic and cultural resources.

Paula Fatjo bequeathed the property in her will for the "protection, maintenance and fostering of natural flora and fauna." Therefore, this site's recreation use is more passive in nature than at San Luis and is predominantly used by equestrians and hikers. Several ridges have been leased for energy production and contain large wind turbines which currently generate 22.3 million kilowatts of energy annually. Areas of the park outside of the wind turbine lands are leased for cattle grazing. The property's historic features, in addition to the Fatjo ranch, include an old line shack used by Henry Miller's cattle company in the 1800s and part of the Butterfield Stage line route. Other areas are known to be rich in archaeological resources.

This park is separate from San Luis Reservoir, and a General Plan has never been prepared for it before. The planning process will coordinate the work for these two areas while still recognizing their differences. The General Plan process will be an opportunity to plan for the future of the sites' historical and natural resources, while exploring ways to enhance recreational use of the property.



Historic corrals characterize the Fatjo ranch



California Department of Parks and Recreation
Four Rivers District
31426 Gonzaga Road
Gustine, CA 95322

SAN LUIS RESERVOIR • PACHECO STATE PARK

Calendar of Events

GENERAL PLAN PROCESS AT A GLANCE

FALL 2002

Information Gathering
Fieldwork

WINTER 2003

Summarize Existing Conditions
PUBLIC PLANNING WORKSHOP #1

SPRING/SUMMER 2003

Discuss Opportunities & Constraints
and Develop Plan Alternatives
PUBLIC PLANNING WORKSHOP #2
Prepare Draft Plans

FALL 2003

PUBLIC PLANNING WORKSHOP #3
Public Review of Draft Plans &
EIR/EIS

SPRING 2004

Distribute Final Plans & EIR/EIS
Agency Approvals

PARTICIPATION IS THE KEY TO A GREAT PLAN!

If you are not currently on our mailing list and would like to receive the planning update and notice about future workshops, or wish to send written comments, please contact us at:

California Department of Parks and Recreation
Four Rivers District
31426 Gonzaga Road
Gustine, CA 95322
209.826.1197
(for questions or comments about the General Plan Process)

For general information about park use
(e.g. hours, activities), please call: 1-800-346-2711

Visit Our Website
www.cal-parks.ca.gov



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**San Luis Reservoir
State Recreation Area
General Plan / Resource Management Plan
SURVEY**



(please mail back by January 3, 2003)

Your Name: _____
Organization (if any): _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Phone (optional): _____
E-mail (optional): _____

**Would you like to remain on our mailing list to receive
future Planning Updates?**

Yes No

☐ ☐

How often do you visit the San Luis Reservoir? _____

How far do you travel to get there? (miles) _____

What activities do you like to do there? _____

What do you value most about the San Luis Reservoir? _____

What do you like the least? _____

What facilities need improvements or additions at the Park? _____

When you last left the park, what did you remember the most? _____

Are there any environmental issues that you think we should
pay close attention to during preparation of the General Plan
and Environmental Impact Report? _____

Have you ever been to the Los Baños Creek area? What did
you do there? _____

Is there anything else that you would like to share with us? _____

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tape it closed, affix a 37 cent stamp and mail by January 3, 2003 Thank you!

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37 cent
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California State Parks
Four Rivers District Office - Attn: Dennis Inhoff
31426 Gonzaga Road
Gustine, CA 95322





Pacheco State Park GENERAL PLAN SURVEY

(please mail back by January 3, 2003)



Your Name: _____
Organization (if any): _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Phone (optional): _____
E-mail (optional): _____

**Would you like to remain on our mailing list to receive
future Planning Updates?**

Yes No

☐ ☐

Have you ever visited Pacheco State Park? _____

What did you do on your visit? _____

How far did you travel to visit the Park? (miles) _____

What time of the year did you visit the Park? (month/year) _____

What do you value most about Pacheco State Park? _____

What was your favorite feature or experience at the Park? _____

What did you like least about Pacheco State Park? _____

What do you think can be done to enhance the Park? _____

After you left the Park, what did you remember? _____

Is there anything else you would like to share with us? _____

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